exports of Rs. 47,500 crores and domestic revenues of Rs. 12,500 crores.

Guidelines for Payment of Telephone Dues

†2335. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines issued by Government for payment of telephone dues in rural and hilly areas;

(b) whether it is a fact that telephone subscribers have to travel for 8 to 10 kilometres for payment of their telephone dues; and

(c) if so, the telephone exchanges in Himachal Pradesh where people have to face such difficulties alongwith the remedial action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Since 1.10.2000, the Government is no longer providing telephone services; these are done by public sector undetakings, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and private operators. The existing guidelines of BSNL and MTNL envisage collection of telephone bills, including in the hilly and rural areas, through their cash counters, telegraph offices, authorized nationalized banks, scheduled commercial banks and authorized post offices, subject to operational feasibility. A voluntary deposit scheme and the facility of sending cheques by post are also available.

(b) and (c) No information about the distance travelled by individual subscribers to the various authorized bill collection centres is being maintained by BSNL. However, by the facilities of the voluntary deposit scheme and sending cheques by post available to all subscribers, the problem of their travelling long distances has been taken care of to a large extent.

Disconnection of Telephones in Kargil Martyr's Village

†2336. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.